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R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

ON THE

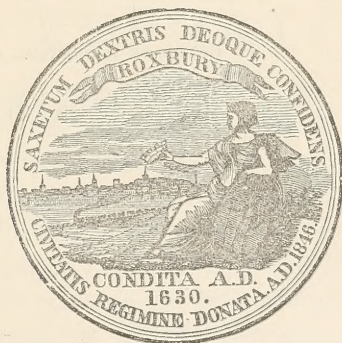
Request of the School Committee

TO

DISCONTINUE THE APPROPRIATION

HERETOFORE GRANTED TO THE

"Trustees of the Grammar School in the Easterly part of Roxbury."



R O X B U R Y :

L. B. & O. E. WESTON, PRINTERS, GUILD ROW.

1860.

CITY OF ROXBURY.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, July 23, 1860.

Report read and accepted, and Order adopted ; and that two thousand copies of the same be printed and distributed to the inhabitants of the City.

Sent up for concurrence.

FRANKLIN WILLIAMS, *Clerk.*

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, July 23, 1860.

Concurred.

JOSEPH W. TUCKER, *City Clerk.*

City of Roxbury.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, July 23d, 1860.

The Joint Standing Committee on Public Instruction, to whom was referred a communication from the School Committee, dated May 9th, 1860, "requesting the City Council to cause all payments made from the City Treasury, for the support of the School or Schools under the care of the 'Trustees of the Grammar School in the Easterly part of Roxbury,' to be discontinued on and after the first day of August next, except the annual sum of \$500, that being the amount paid to the Trustees, annually, previously to 1852;" have attended to that duty, and submit the following

REPORT:

THE subject of a separation between the "Trustees of the Grammar School in the Easterly part of Roxbury" and the City Government, has occupied the attention of the City Council in previous years, and definite action on the part of the Board of School Committee was effected in 1857, by their giving notice to the Board of Trustees "that the arrangement made on the 28th of June, 1852, between the School Committee and the 'Trustees of the Grammar School in the Easterly part of Roxbury,' in reference to the English department of said school, be terminated on the 31st day of October next." The School Committee at the same time gave notice to the City Government of their action in this matter, and "requested the City Council to make provision for an English High School for Boys."

In order that the City Council may have a right under-

standing of the matter now presented for their consideration, it is necessary to give an outline of the history of the Trustee Fund, and its connection with the City Government; and this will be presented in as brief a manner as is consistent with a clear understanding of the matter now before them: and for a more full history of the Trustee Fund, and the previous action of the School Committee and City Government, reference may be had to City Documents Nos. 14 and 15, for the year 1857.

In 1675, Mr. Thomas Bell bequeathed a large amount of property for the maintenance of a free school in Roxbury, which fund, in 1677, was added to the funds of the Free School then already established, and the whole were placed under the direction of two Boards—the Trustees and Feoffees—the former having charge of the Bell legacy, and the latter of the *School* and residue of the property. This arrangement continued till 1789, when an act was passed incorporating “the Trustees of the Grammar School of the Easterly part of Roxbury.” The two Boards who had managed its affairs were abolished, and its guidance and control was then placed exclusively under the care of a Board of Trustees, consisting of not less than nine nor more than thirteen persons. The members composing the Board of Trustees were, until quite recently, always chosen from the members of the Church now under the pastoral charge of Rev. Dr. Putnam, and were self-constituted; they have ever since had exclusive control over its funds, and over all the arrangements connected with the Grammar and English High School for Boys; though it would seem that for quite a length of time, viz., from 1677 to 1789, when the two Boards managed its affairs, that they must have relinquished the power, formerly and since exercised, and that they did not, for the period of one hundred and twelve years, have that control over the management of the *School* that is now exercised by them; and had it not been for the act of 1789, they would never have been able to exercise it, at a later

period. The power thus derived by them, comes not so much from the will of Mr. Bell, as from an Act of the Legislature; and this power may be modified by the General Court, should the Trustees deem it advisable, in order that the funds may exert the greatest good for the *greatest* number of those for whose benefit it was intended.

In 1836, the Revised Statutes required every town containing 500 families to maintain a School where the higher branches of study should be taught, and as the Town of Roxbury did not contain such a school, an arrangement was made with the Trustees to vary the character of their school, so as to meet the requirements of the law of the Commonwealth, and thus have the advantage of the instruction contemplated by the Legislature; an arrangement desirable to be made, as it would lessen the expense to the town. In 1839, an Act was obtained giving sanction to this plan, and also recognizing this school as being such as the town is required to maintain by the fifth section of the 23d chapter of the Revised Statutes. Upon the acceptance of this Act, the Town agreed to pay to the Trustees \$500 per annum, toward the maintenance of said school. The Trustees were to have full and absolute power over the school or schools thus organized, and the Act to remain in full force *during the pleasure of the Trustees*, and no longer. But your Committee have no doubt that upon application to the Trustees for the termination of this Act, they will promptly and cheerfully act in concert with the wishes of the City Government.

In 1852, the wants of the city required additional instruction in the higher branches, and though the school thus established had met with the *legal* requirements of the law, yet it failed to give the necessary instruction demanded by the rapid growth of the city, and the advancing strides made in science and literature; and, in order to meet this want, which the School Committee felt was pressing upon them day by day, they entered into an agreement with the Board of Trustees to supply

the deficiency existing, and a mutual agreement was then entered into, which for the time was beneficial to the city: and although the Trustees still held on to the power or authority over the school, and only granted to the Board of School Committee an advisory or suggestive power (if power it may be called), yet it had an advantage over the Act granted by the Legislature, in that it could be terminated by either of the parties, whilst that of 1839 could only be annulled by the Trustees.

Under this last arrangement has the School been conducted by the Trustees, in *consultation* with the Local Committee of the Board of School Committee; and in order to carry out this new arrangement, the city has appropriated towards its support an average of \$2700 per annum, which amount has been paid to the Trustees, and by them expended, without any control on the part of the City Council or the Board of School Committee.

In 1857, it became apparent to the School Committee that the growth of the city required, and demanded, that *new* arrangements should be made for the accommodation of an English High School for Boys under their *exclusive* control, an event not altogether unanticipated by the Trustees in the agreement of 1852. The School Committee took the necessary measures on its part, and gave the required notice to the Board of Trustees, in 1857, since which time they have had no consultation with them; and thus has terminated, on their part, the agreement of 1852.

The City Government was then requested by the School Committee to make provision for an English High School for Boys. The City Council of that year reported adversely to the request, but continued to the present year in making an annual appropriation of \$3000, which amount has been expended for the High School under the sole charge of the Trustees.

As in 1839, '52 and '57, so now, in 1860, do the School Committee find that the rapid growth of our city, and the advancement of the age demand a different course, and a

higher order of education, for the youth of our city; and, in order to meet this want, have taken action, in coming before the City Council, and notifying them that they are about to establish an English High School for Boys. And since the Principal and Assistant of the School now under the charge of the Trustees have resigned their situations, and the School Committee have elected them as Teachers of the English High School now about to be established, it seems to be an appropriate time to request of the Trustees a termination of the Act of 1839, and that notice be given to them that the city will discontinue any further appropriation for the support of the Trustee School, with the exception of \$500 per annum. The School Committee, in previous years, urged this course of action on the City Government, and now, after a lapse of three years, come forward and recommend the same measure; showing clearly that time has proven they acted wisely then, and we doubt not that the future will show that they are acting wisely now, and for the best interest of the community.

The Board of School Committee is mostly composed of gentlemen of long experience in school matters, and who bring to their duties much knowledge and scientific attainments, derived from practical experience, and from an intimate connection with the best methods of instruction in our public schools, and are quick to discern the wants necessary for a full development of the human mind as taught in our institutions of learning. And when such gentlemen repeatedly urge the City Council to take action on a matter over which they are appointed its watchful guardians, it would seem to be the part of wisdom not only to give a listening ear to their suggestions, but to coöperate with them in carrying out their request.

Your Committee would therefore recommend the adoption of the following order.

For the Committee,

EBEN'R W. BUMSTEAD.

City of Roxbury.

IN COMMON COUNCIL, July 23, 1860.

ORDERED, That the Committee on Public Instruction be instructed to communicate to the Board of "Trustees of the Grammar School in the Easterly part of Roxbury," that the City is about to establish an English High School for Boys, and that the appropriation heretofore granted to the Trustees will be discontinued on and after the 1st of August next, except the annual amount of \$500, that being the amount paid previous to 1852; and also to request the Trustees to send the boys now under their charge in the English department, to the English High School established by the City.

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